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17LOCKHEED-MIKI

TOKYO, APRIL 3,

REUTER - PRIME MINISTER TAKEO MIKI TODAY SAID HE WOULD STAKE HIS POLITICAL FUTURE ON FINDING THE TRUTH ABOUT JAPAN'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE LOCKHEED BRIBERY SCANDAL.

HE TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE JAPAN WOULD ASK THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO HELP UNCOVER THE TRUTH ABOUT ALLEGATIONS THAT THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (CIA) HAD PAID MONEY TO ONE OR MORE JAPANESE POLITICAL PARTIES.

THE LOCKHEED AIRCRAFT CORPORATION HAS ADMITTED PAYING MORE THAN TWO MILLION DOLLARS TO PEOPLE IN JAPAN TO PROMOTE SALES OF ITS PLANES THERE.

MR MIKI'S STATEMENT REFERRED TO A REPORT IN THE NEW YORK TIMES YESTERDAY THAT THE CIA HAS PAID MONEY TO ONE OR MORE JAPANESE POLITICAL PARTIES. THE NEWSPAPER QUOTED A FORMER AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE OFFICER AS SAYING THE CIA HAD HEAVILY FUNDED JAPAN'S 1958 ELECTIONS WHEN PRIME MINISTER NOBUSUKE KISHI WAS RE-ELECTED.

THE TIMES SAID THE CIA KNEW ABOUT LOCKHEED'S BRIBES TO JAPANESE POLITICIANS IN THE LATE 1950'S.†  
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MR MIKI TOLD THE PRESS CONFERENCE THAT THE ALLEGATIONS OF PAYMENTS BY THE CIA POSED ANOTHER GRAVE PROBLEM. HE SAID: "THE TRUTH MUST BE UNCOVERED BY EVERY MEANS POSSIBLE."

HE SAID THE LOCKHEED SCANDAL HAD POLITICAL AND MORAL ASPECTS AS WELL AS THE LEGAL ANGLE AND THESE WOULD HAVE TO BE THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATED.

HE ADDED: "I WILL STAKE MY POLITICAL LIFE UNCOVERING THE TRUTH ABOUT THE LOCKHEED AFFAIR, WHICH IS THE BIGGEST ORDEAL FOR JAPAN'S PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY."

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE HAD NO INTENTION OF DISSOLVING THE LOWER HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT, RESIGNING OR RESHUFFLING HIS CABINET.

BUT HE SAID IT WAS DESIRABLE TO CALL A GENERAL ELECTION AFTER INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE LOCKHEED AFFAIR MADE SOME PROGRESS. GENERAL ELECTIONS MUST ANYWAY BE HELD BY DECEMBER 19 THIS YEAR WHEN THE FOUR-YEAR TERM OF THE LOWER HOUSE MEMBERS EXPIRES.†

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW